NOSTALGIA

Queen Victoria was not amused by a college Master's cover-up

***MIKE PETTY** AND **JAMES MILNER** LOOK THROUGH THE **CAMBRIDGE NEWS** ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES FROM THIS DAY IN THE PAST*

Staff at St Regis during the Second World War

Important wartime letters uncovered – 1981

WARTIME correspondence between the Home Office and the man who would have run Cambridge in the event of a major disaster has been unearthed in the Public Record Office.

Mr F R Scott would have assumed total control of the Eastern Counties and his letters give details of damage to Cherry Hinton Hall and private houses, including a small fire caused by an oil incendiary bomb falling on a house in Tenison Avenue.

They were sent from St Regis, Montague Road, which served as the region's civil defence headquarters until 1945.

Later, Cambridge was again chosen as a regional seat of government in 1959 to cope with the aftermath of a nuclear attack.

Villages switched on to electricity – 1954

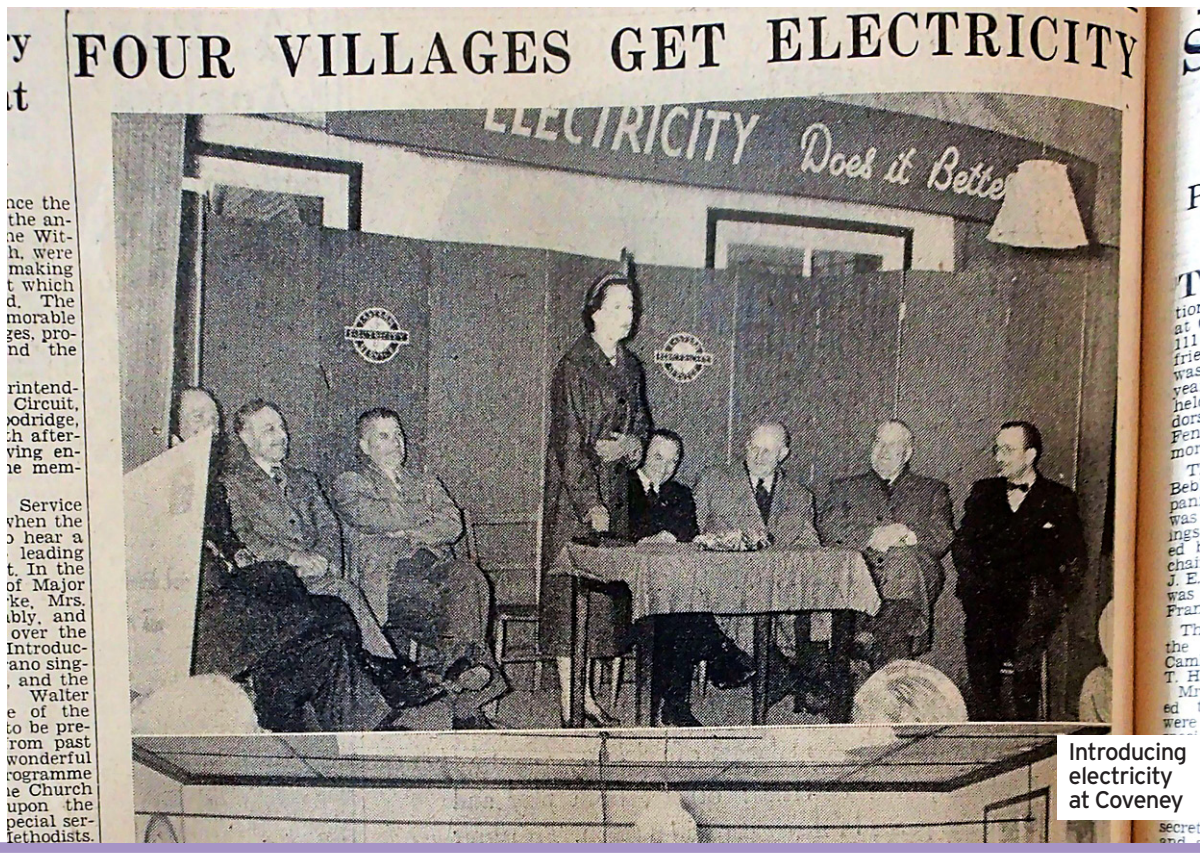
ELECTRICITY, described as one of the modern blessings of the world, was switched on for the villages of Mepal, Witcham, Coveney and Wardy Hill in a ceremony at Mepal Union Chapel.

Mrs Legge-Burke said: "I was brought up like many of you with candles and paraffin lamps. And this is something we can all do without, especially us women who had to clean the lamps. I can still, when I think of it, smell paraffin."

She urged the villages to use their electricity as much as possible. When she pressed the 'alarming looking switch,' the room was flooded with a blaze of light, and on went a radio forming part of a display of electrical appliances.

Lining the schoolroom walls was a comprehensive display of the latest domestic appliances, which the villagers were able to inspect.

A considerable number of farms have been included in the scheme. It would be of great convenience to farmers in that, rather than having to light a hurricane lamp to work at night, they now only had to switch on.



FOUR VILLAGES GET ELECTRICITY

Introducing electricity at Coveney

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